Magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus and control method thereof.

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Abstract

When the magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus is in a waiting state, feedback control for positioning the carriage (3, 3') is released, and the supply of a sense current to the magnetoresistive effect element of the MR magnetic head so as to prolong the life of the MR magnetic head. When the interface and control circuit (11) recognizes that there is no order from the host computer (14) and that the magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus is in a wait state, the servo control circuit (12) releases the feedback control for positioning the head. The mode, etc. selection control circuit (6) controls the recording/reproduction amplifier (5, 5') so as not to supply a sense current to the magnetoresistive effect element of the MR magnetic head. According to this invention, the time for supplying a sense current to the magnetoresistive effect element of the MR magnetic head (2) is reduced in a great measure and, therefore, it is possible to prevent the deterioration of the element characteristics by electromigration or the like, with the result that the life of the element can be prolonged. Hence, the output of the MR magnetic head (2) can be increased without sacrificing the reliability. Accordingly, it has become possible to improve the performance of a high-output magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus using an MR magnetic head (2).